



# **Grade 7 Writing**

## **Expository Scoring Guide**

**March 2017**

# Grade 7 Writing Expository Prompt

**READ** the information in the box below.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy said that the United States should set a goal of landing an American on the moon by 1970. After much hard work and preparation, two Americans landed on the moon in 1969.

**THINK** carefully about the following statement.

Some people think it is easier to accomplish something if they set a goal in advance.

**WRITE** an essay explaining why setting a goal is important.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

## **Score Point 1**

**The essay represents a very limited writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the controlling idea is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

Why setting a goal is important  
The important of setting a goal is that you are preparing something for the future. Some day I can prepare a goal of something like for example I have a goal to pass to next level. if nobody prepare a goal they can not make something that is the reason of the important of setting a goal.  
If nobody setting a goal of getting to the moon, we never get to the moon, that is a reason of setting a goal. What is a goal a objective that you work so hard to pass that objective to finish. something that is important for the people is to have a goal that they prepare for some project for something that they try to do. Setting a goal is important a lot for something that you want to do. This are the reasons of the important to have setting a goal

**Score Point 1**

The controlling idea of this response is that goal setting is needed to make accomplishments happen. The brief mention of “a goal to pass to the next level” and “getting to the moon” provides vague development, and repetition of the importance of preparing a goal causes a weak progression of ideas. Additionally, the student’s limited word choice, awkward sentence construction, and errors in conventions impede the clarity and quality of this very limited writing performance.

A goal I set for myself was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and I haven't played football in a while, so my goal was to make the B-Team. When our first practice was over, I was sweating so hard! But, I pushed through 1 week and 4 days. Then, it was Friday. The day we use helmets and pads. It was one of the hardest practices. But, it got better, and I built some muscle, lost some fat, and kept going. Then the last day comes before they announce what teams people are on. That practice I didn't screw up once. I pushed so hard that day. And guess what? The next day, it paid off. I was made B-Team tight end. But that season, we didn't do so hot (1-7), but I never dropped a pass, and you can ask anyone, that's really good for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade kid who hasn't played football for a long time. That was the time I set a goal for myself in football.

### Score Point 1

Instead of explaining the importance of setting a goal, the writer of this very limited writing performance shares a personal narrative about how goal setting “paid off.” Although the writer addresses the topic of setting goals, the organizing structure of the response is inappropriate to the expository purpose. The controlling idea is missing, and the development is weak because the details tell only what happened as the writer moves through time with the first practice, the try-out, and the result of making the team. Overall, the writer’s response to the prompt is confused and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Have you ever waken up and realized there is a test to day, then you wish you should have studied. You should have set a goal.

When I find out I have a test I make a goal on how long I study for the days leading up to it.

Another goal was when the International Space Station was built. They sent up supplies on a schedule. Many monuments were also sent up on a schedule.

Having a goal is important. If nobody ever had a goal nothing would be accomplished.

### Score Point 1

This essay begins with the writer describing a hypothetical scenario to establish his controlling idea, which focuses on the importance of setting a goal. Although the writer attempts to tie the importance of goals to a personal example about preparing for a test, no connection is made between study habits and achievement. Instead, random examples of goal setting (International Space Station; building monuments) are only briefly presented and are not linked to the controlling idea stated in the last paragraph (“If nobody ever had a goal nothing would be accomplished”). In addition to insufficient development, perfunctory transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections do not support the flow of ideas or show the relationship among ideas. The result is a weak progression of ideas in this very limited writing performance.



People set goals in life to work through them, and be successful and hard working.

Why are goals important. They make us want to get them. When we set goals we fight to get them. If I set a goal I would try to make it there and I won't give up without trying to get better.

How do goals help us in life. They help us by telling us to go get them. It is like a video game when you want something you go get it. When you set a goal there's nothing holding you back so go get it.

Goals are worth fighting for if you set one you will be like everyone successful.

### Score Point 1

The writer of this very limited writing performance introduces the controlling idea that goals are important because they help people work hard through them. The writer attempts to organize ideas by presenting rhetorical questions as topic sentences to each paragraph; however, the vague and repetitious answers to those questions (go get them) inside the paragraphs contribute little substance and impede the flow of ideas in the essay. Overall, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

## **Score Point 2**

**The essay represents a basic writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's controlling idea is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective controlling idea or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.



Is setting goals important? Setting goals is always important because they make you want to accomplish everything. They help people see how far you would go to get something you really want. It's a way to think about your future.

Goals are important in many ways they help you think your future. Many people that set are successful in life because they believe they can do it.

People are really determined they can accomplish their goals, and if you are determined to do something you're positive you'll do it.

Setting goals can be like raising money or passing your classes. Anything can be your goal but you have to really want it.

When you set a goal you're positive you'll make it no matter what.

You and me have goals hoping that one day we accomplish them. No matter what happens nothing can come in our way or making our dreams come true.

Many people have goals and many people accomplish their goals. Goals are important in someone's life.

### Score Point 2

In this response, the writer offers the somewhat unclear controlling idea that goals make people want to accomplish everything and goals are ways “to think about your future.” However, the writer then shifts from idea to idea about goals (the importance of determination; examples of goals; the effects of goals on people; many people set goals; goals are important to set). These ideas are not specifically linked to the controlling idea and are superficially developed. Repetition causes an uncontrolled progression of ideas, weak development, and a lack of focus. All these factors contribute to an essay that represents a basic writing performance.

Setting a goal is important because you will try to reach that goal. You can set a goal in life whether it's going to college. Or just doing good in school. You have to set a goal if you want to accomplish something. So many people have goals and many of them have accomplished their goals. Abraham Lincoln had a goal it was to end slavery. He reached his goal he ended slavery. College football players have goals. Their goals are to go to pro football.

That's why setting a goal is important because you're trying to reach that goal. You can always have more than one goal in life. You think slavery would have ended if Lincoln never reached his goal.

Setting a goal is important to many people around the world.

### Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer introduces the controlling idea that one must set a goal to accomplish something. The writer attempts to support the idea with two examples: how Abraham Lincoln set a goal to end slavery and how college football players set goals to become professional football players. However, the essay is superficial because the details the writer chooses are too partially presented to contribute to the development in a substantial way. Extraneous information about many people having goals and about the possibility of people having more than one goal in life stalls the progression of ideas and impedes the coherence of the essay. Overall, this essay represents a basic writing performance.

"In 1961, President John F. Kennedy said that the United States should set a goal of landing an American on the moon by 1970. They got two Americans on the moon in 1969." Their plan worked because they set goals for themselves. Setting goals are extremely important in life. You should always set a goal if you want something to be done, or if you feel like you can do it!

Setting goals make you work harder, because you're wanting to reach it! The harder you work, the more you'll want to be able to pass your goal! You'll feel so much better if you work for it too, and you'll feel like you can accomplish things!

Goals will also make you look forward to it! You won't want to quit after a goal is made, because you will want to reach it. If you set a goal, and try, it will happen for you. Just make sure your goal isn't too high or too low. Make it reasonable to what you can do.

Overall, goal setting is important! You should always set goals if you're trying to complete something! Personally, I set goals all the time. It helps you reach your best work with no doubt! Setting goals should be easy on a daily basis.

### Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer introduces the controlling idea that "you should always set a goal if you want something to be done." To support this idea, the writer states that "setting goals makes you work harder" and prevents you from quitting, as long as the goal is "reasonable." The writer concludes with the idea that goals help you "reach your best work." Although the progression of ideas is clear, the writer's word choice is general, and the details and examples are too briefly presented to be effective. Overall, the writer demonstrates a limited understanding of the expository writing task.



Imagine if you never set any goals. I believe it is better to set goals because it makes things easier to accomplish and it helps you push for the goal.

The first reason why it is better to set goals is because it makes things easier to accomplish. I know because when you set a goal it is easier to complete your goal. For example, whenever I set a day to clean my room I get it done sooner compared to when I don't set a day. This means that setting goals help accomplish tasks.

My second reason why I believe setting goals is better is because it helps you push for your goal. I know because when you make a goal it is easier to fulfill that goal. For example, every other Thursday I set a goal for my mile time. If I didn't set a goal there would be no point in running the mile because if I didn't set a goal I wouldn't push myself. This means that making goals push you to work harder.

In conclusion I believe setting goals is better than not setting goals for two reasons. One reason is that setting goals makes the goal be easier to undertake. The second reason why I believe setting goals is better is because it helps you work harder to meet your goal.

### Score Point 2

The controlling idea of this formulaic response is that goal setting “makes things easier to accomplish and it helps you push for the goal.” To support this idea, the writer provides minimal explanation about how goal setting makes it easier to clean a room and run the mile; however, the details are too briefly presented to add substantive development and are not clearly tied to the controlling idea. In addition, wordiness and repetition of “easier to accomplish” and “pushing” to reach goals cause minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. Perfunctory transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too weak to show the relationships among ideas. As a result, the essay demonstrates that the writer has a limited understanding of the expository writing task, resulting in a basic writing performance.

## **Score Point 3**

**The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. Most ideas are related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

Growing up can be hard; especially when you don't know what to do. By taking one day to just figure out what you want to do with your life, everything can become easier. Goals will allow you to become a new person and reach heights you thought were unattainable.

Setting goals is like planning a party. You must know how, when, and where you want things. Taylor Swift became pretty used to this cycle. She set new goals for herself all the time. First she needed to know how to play the guitar, then to be signed to a record label, and now she must not forget the lyrics. She wouldn't have been able to get this far in life, without knowing what she had wanted all along.

Goals allow you to go farther in your life. Without setting goals, people would just give up once things got tough. People have created more things by using goals than they ever would have. These prove that you can do anything in life.

One day is all it takes to start thinking about your future. Setting a significant goal can very well change your life. There will be some bumps in the road, but eventually you will reach your incentive and feel complete.

### Score Point 3

Beginning this essay with the observation, "Growing up can be hard; especially when you don't know what to do," the writer reveals the controlling idea that goals allow you to "become a new person and reach heights you thought were unattainable." To support this idea, the writer provides a specific example about how Taylor Swift set and achieved goals in various stages of her singing career. Although the third paragraph is weakened by the inclusion of only general statements about how goals help people in life (Without setting goals people would just give up; People have created more things by using goals), overall the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task. The writer ties the ideas together with some thoughtfulness in the concluding paragraph. Additionally, specific word choice, varied sentence structures, and a control of sentence boundaries contribute to this satisfactory writing performance.



Setting a goal is extremely important for your future. It brought many zeros to heroes in our history, all they did is achieve something they always dreamed of doing as they were just little cubers.

There was one man who changed history with his goal, Thomas Edison. He was always wanting to invent something, and when he failed, he kept going, planning even more inventions until one big, juicy success. One invention has worked, which was the light bulb, he has been working on it so many times that any of us would have given up on it. He impressed us all and made it into the history books.

Michael Jordan, he was so eager to play basketball and one season he tried out for his high school team. He was said to not be good enough, so to him, that was just motivation to make him try even harder. Later, he made it on the bulls and became a pro, he even has a shoe that's named after him. He is a die hard hero.

All people have something in common when they set a goal, They never quit, they understand the big memo, that hard work pays off, and it pays off big time. These people are leaders, and they motivate us to become strong and powerful. They prove that if all of us work like they did, we have a great future to look out for.

### Score Point 3

The writer begins this essay with the controlling idea that goals have allowed many people over time to achieve “something they always dreamed of doing.” The writer offers two examples (Thomas Edison’s persistent attempts to develop a light bulb; Michael Jordan’s repeated attempts to make his high school basketball team) to support this idea with sufficient development that adds some thoughtfulness to the essay. The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled, although meaningful transitions between the two body paragraphs would better support the flow of ideas. The conclusion adds to the response by challenging the reader to work hard to achieve a great future. In addition, the writer’s word choice is clear and specific, enhancing this satisfactory writing performance.

People set goals because it helps organize efficiently how they will reach their goal; by planning and evaluating your options will make it easier. Setting yourself a goal is important because you set your mind to it.

Setting a goal is important because you know strategically how you are going to achieve that goal. For example John F. Kennedy wanted an American to land on the moon. He was not just going to go with the first decision that someone presented him, he was going to have someone statistically evaluate the rocket and make sure it was well built and sturdy. He also needed to make sure that the proper equipment was on the rocket and if there was any climate difficulty. If every thing was ready to go the rocket could then proceed to the moon.

Having to set a goal is important because it helps you think through all the possible issues and how to grow past them.

Another important reason setting a goal is a good idea is because it gets you determined and it makes you focus on your goal. For instance when you have a young man, who has no professional background, play basketball, he is most likely not able to shoot a hoop. But if he practices everyday and has the determination, this young man can accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

Setting a goal is important because it strategically helps you plan different ways to achieve it and helps you grow determination. Accomplishing a goal might have hurdles on the way, but you can always make it to the finish line.

### Score Point 3

The controlling idea of this response is that goal setting “strategically helps you plan” how to achieve a goal and keeps you determined. The writer provides two examples (John F. Kennedy planning the task of putting a man on the moon; a basketball player’s determination to play professionally). Although the example about how daily practice improves a man’s basketball skills is somewhat general, the John F. Kennedy example is specific and thoughtful, with clear and appropriate word choice that contributes to the effectiveness of the essay. In the conclusion, the student ends the composition by stating the controlling idea. In addition, the writer adds some thoughtfulness by comparing accomplishing a goal to reaching the finish line, “even though there are hurdles on the way.” Overall, this response represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Setting goals has been a part of human nature for centuries, guiding us towards our ambitions. Many well-known people in history like Christopher Columbus and the Wright Brothers set big goals and accomplished them with hard work and effort.

Not having goals may seem like an easy way to cruise through life but it makes life arduous down the road. Even the small goals count because they kind of have a snowball effect on your life. For example, a girl saving up for a doll now can help her know how to invest in a business later. Some kids buy as soon as they get money and don't learn the values of saving and end up broke later in life.

Also, if you set a goal you're more likely to stay on it, and not veer off the path to success. Think about it like this, goals are like instructions, telling what to do and not to do, they keep you on track. If you don't even set a goal you're more likely going to get distracted by something else and not achieve the unmet goal. If you're a goalie in soccer and your unmet goal is to block all score attempts by the other team and you start playing offense, chances are they'll score on you.

In conclusion, goals are extremely important in life because without them, what kind of life would you even have? Setting goals has been a part of life for centuries and hopefully will stay that way for centuries to come.

### Score Point 3

The student states the controlling idea of this response in the first two sentences of the paper. The writer develops the controlling idea by briefly mentioning two relevant historical examples (Christopher Columbus; the Wright Brothers) and then focusing on a philosophical view of setting goals. The second paragraph explains how even small goals can have “a snowball effect on your life.” The development of this idea reflects some thoughtfulness by the writer’s observation that not having many goals “makes life arduous down the road.” In the third paragraph, the writer adds an example about playing soccer to support the idea that goals will “keep you on the path to success.” The progression of ideas is sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationship among ideas. This response demonstrates a satisfactory writing performance.

## **Score Point 4**

**The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. All ideas are strongly related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.



Goal setting has been implemented by various people of all professions for centuries as a simple way to keep a structured work schedule and to have something to work towards; therefore, setting goals is essential, as doing so raises one's success rate and gives them something to work towards by using a well maintained schedule and list of steps and procedures to attain their goal(s).

In the early 1960's, Russia was advancing at a rapid pace in their space exploration technology. Seeing Russia's growing scientific and political influence as a threat, President John F. Kennedy set a goal for the United States to send at least one man to the moon by 1970. After following many structured steps and procedures, two Americans landed on the moon in 1969. Had President Kennedy not set a goal, the United States' space exploration program would've been drastically hampered and the future of US technology would've been doomed to lag behind the rest of the quickly ennobling world.

In recent years, VIA has been working with the local San Antonio government to install various streetcar routes within downtown San Antonio by about 2015. Even though the set goal is still tentative, at least setting this goal enables VIA and the San Antonio government to have something to work towards, which as a result thereof, will surely boost their odds of attaining their goal.

Even if a goal one sets is tentative and still open to debate, at least a temporary goal will give one a general idea of where they'd like to be heading within the next couple of years. If one sets a goal and keeps a structured and focused schedule to achieve that goal, their chances of succeeding are generally higher than those who fail to set goals when they want to accomplish a certain task.

#### Score Point 4

The clear controlling idea of this accomplished writing performance is that setting goals is “essential” because it “raises one’s success rate and gives [people] something to work towards.” Although the first example about John F. Kennedy’s quest to put a man on the moon repeats information provided in the prompt, the writer adds specific details that add substance to the response. The second example about VIA’s (the San Antonio transit agency) goal to put more streetcar routes in downtown San Antonio is also strongly related to the controlling idea. By sustaining focus on how goal setting is related to accomplishments, the writer is able to craft an essay that is unified and coherent. Meaningful transitions and the inclusion of strong sentence-to-sentence connections allow the reader to easily follow the writer’s train of thought. The quality of the essay is strengthened by a consistent command of conventions as well as purposeful and precise word choice. Overall, this essay reflects a keen awareness of the expository task.

Setting a goal is like working a GPS system. It will show you where to go and how to get there. Despite traffic, accidents, and the time it takes, you still want to be there. A goal gives you a path to take so you can become better at whatever you wish.

A goal gives you a way to reach it. It is impossible for you to wonder aimlessly and still reach your goal. For example, I want to get 100s in every class on my report card. However, I will never reach that and if I simply do a mediocre job on my daily work. You cannot constantly swerve off-course, you have to be precisely on-course in order to reach your goal.

I imagine that you crashed your car into a tree on a trip. I'm very sure that many would get a rental car and keep on their way. A goal works in the exact same way. You may run into issues, but should always keep on your way.

Have you even seen *Toy Story*? If you have, you've probably heard Buzz's quote, "To infinity and beyond!" To me, it means that you can reach your goals and then crave to go beyond them. That's what goals do; they give you the confidence to go on strong!

Goals have many roads, obstacles, and rewards. All you have to do to reach your goal is stay on course, keep on your way, and maybe even go beyond! Goals are much more than a simple dream; they are guides to a better you!

#### Score Point 4

In this skillfully crafted essay, the writer establishes the controlling idea that a goal gives you a path to take so you can become better at whatever you wish. The writer develops an extended metaphor by explaining that goals prevent you from swerving off course (with daily schoolwork) and by sharing the observation that a goal works like a rental car after an accident (You may run into issues but should always keep on your way). To reinforce the idea of continuing on despite roadblocks, the writer provides a quotation from the movie *Toy Story* ("To Infinity and Beyond!"), explaining that the message encourages people to reach a goal and then "crave to go beyond it." The strong transitions within paragraphs and precise word choice enhance the effectiveness of the piece. Additionally, the introduction and conclusion contribute to the unity and coherence of this accomplished writing performance.



No one wants to go through life in a conglomeration of regret, unfulfilled dreams, and muddled half-ideas. Having no specific task is a setup for failure. Setting goals keeps you focused on a single task at a time.

There are two types of goals - short term and long term - both of which are quantessential to a productive life. Long term goals give people more motivation to get where they want to be in life, short term goals help to achieve long term goals. Goals can be as simple as passing a math test, to aiming to be the CEO of a major corporation.

Goals help to finish projects on time. When I was building a model fish, I set daily goals of what to get done. By building it piece by piece each part was detailed, and when they were put together each piece made the model greater. If the model was done as a whole less attention to detail would be made and the project may have not gotten done on time.

One long term goal might be to learn how to ride a skate board, and perform tricks. Trying to learn to ride a skate board and now tricks would be frustrating and near impossible. But if you break it up into several smaller goals the whole experience becomes less stressful. By becoming proficient in riding the board and only then learning tricks the goal becomes more manageable.

Setting Goals keeps you focused on a single task at a time.

This makes achieving dreams within reach. Many achievements could never be made without the aide of goals.

#### Score Point 4

The writer of this composition begins the response with the observation that “No one wants to go through life in a conglomeration of regret, unfulfilled dreams, and muddled half-ideas” to establish the clear controlling idea that setting goals “keeps you focused on a single task at a time.” Using a compare-contrast organizational structure, the writer compares long-term with short-term goals and provides personal examples of each (building a model of a fish and learning how to skateboard). With specific, well-chosen details, the writer is able to craft an essay that is unified and coherent. The sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of ideas, and purposeful, precise word choice further contributes to the quality and clarity of this accomplished writing performance.

Everyone has tasks to accomplish in their life, but how they choose to accomplish it is completely up to them. Some paths to accomplishing tasks are harder than others. No matter what path is taken, there is always a way to make the quest easier. Setting a goal helps make a task easier and increases the chances of reaping success.

When people set goals, they get an overview of the task and know what they are doing. Sometimes, setting a goal also helps them get to know the task even better. In addition, the task becomes more organized. In the completion of a task, there are "mini tasks" on the way that need to be accomplished in order to complete the overall task. To complete all the tasks, "mini goals" need to accompany the "mini tasks." Setting goals help people's awareness to deadlines, or when the task needs to be finished. Having an agenda can help organize goals, tasks, and events over a period of time, giving reminders of deadlines and showing the time left to complete a task. Success will be more likely to come if goals are set.

Caitlin Spanna wanted to win the National Geographic Bee before she went to high school, so she set a goal. Her giant goal was comprised of smaller goals: winning the school geography bee, passing the written test, winning the Washington state bee, and making time every day to practice and study geography. From the day she set her goal, Caitlin practiced geography for eight hours every day. Before long, she won the school bee, passed the written test, won the state bee, and the entire National Geographic Bee in her eighth grade year, all because of her goal and perseverance. Caitlin accomplished her goal in 2007, becoming the second girl to win the National Geographic Bee.

Setting a goal is an important and effective way to make a task easier and more accomplishable. If no one sets goals, tasks would be more jumbled and difficult to accomplish. Setting goals are important to make a task easier, but it can make life easier and better, as well.

#### Score Point 4

The writer of this engaging response offers the controlling idea that "Setting a goal helps make a task easier and increases the chances of reaping success." The student uses an organizational strategy that begins with a general description of the process of how to set a goal. In the next paragraph, the student provides a specific example of someone who used this process and reaped success by winning the National Geographic Bee. This strategy unifies the piece. Inside each paragraph, the student is able to maintain a nice expository tone by using precise and relevant word choice. The writer shares a unique view of the world and connects ideas in interesting ways, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the expository task. Throughout the essay, strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay and contribute to the coherence and unity of this accomplished writing performance.



120586-115091 • Y717E.9 • Printed in U.S.A.

801307

